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UNCLAS KUWAIT 003749

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: KUWAIT SENDS FOOD AID TO NIGER

Nariman Owaid, Kuwait Red Crescent Society International Affairs Head, informed Political Assistant that Kuwait sent 150 tons food aid to Niger August 21. The assistance was in response to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' emergency appeal for aid to Mali, Chad, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Djibouti. This shipment was the first of 15 planned trips to Niger. There is no information available on assistance to the other affected countries. Each shipment contains 350 cartons of food consisting of milk, rice, sugar, salt, lentils, and canned items. The Kuwaiti Government offered for free the services of two transport planes. Dates for future shipments will be determined based on aircraft availability.

LEBARON